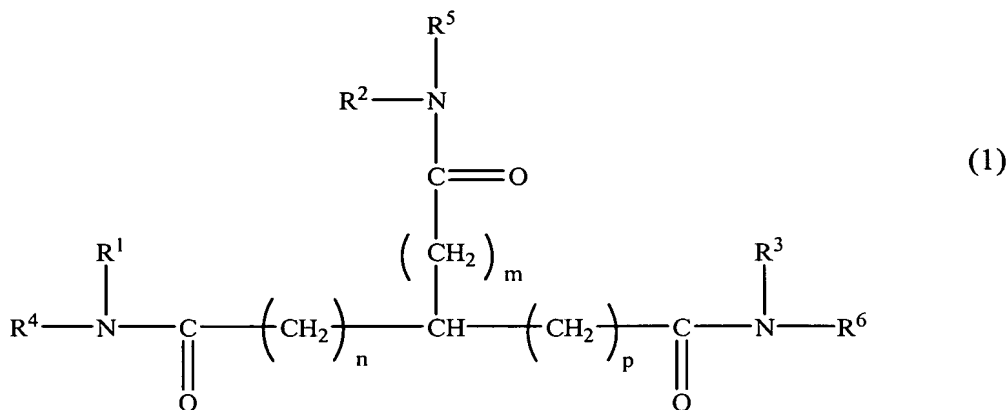


IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Original): An amide compound represented by the following formula 1:



wherein  $\text{R}^1$ ,  $\text{R}^2$  and  $\text{R}^3$  are each independently a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group having a carbon number of from 1 to 3 with the proviso that at least one of  $\text{R}^1$ ,  $\text{R}^2$  and  $\text{R}^3$  is a hydrogen atom;  $\text{R}^4$ ,  $\text{R}^5$  and  $\text{R}^6$  are each independently a saturated or unsaturated, linear or branched hydrocarbon group having a total carbon number of from 6 to 24 which optionally has at least one group selected from the group consisting of an ether group, amide group, ester group, amino group and hydroxyl group; and  $m$ ,  $n$  and  $p$  are each independently an integer of from 0 to 3.

Claim 2 (Original): The amide compound according to claim 1, wherein  $m$ ,  $n$  and  $p$  of formula 1 are all different from one another.

Claim 3 (Original): The amide compound according to claim 1, wherein in formula 1  $m$  is 2,  $n$  is 0 and  $p$  is 3.

Claim 4 (Original): The amide compound according to claim 1, wherein in formula 1 m is 1, n is 0, and p is 2.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): A gelling agent comprising the amide compound as defined in ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1.

Claim 6 (Original): A gel composition comprising an oily base and the gelling agent as defined in claim 5.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): An external composition comprising the amide compound as defined in ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A cosmetic preparation comprising the amide compound as defined in ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A fragrance composition comprising a fragrance and the amide compound as defined in ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1.

Claims 10-11 (Canceled).